

Hurricane Preparedness Plan

Florida and Southeastern Conferences of Seventh-day Adventists



Seventh-day
Adventist[®] Church
FLORIDA CONFERENCE



SECSDA
SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Hurricane Preparedness Plan

The hurricane season runs from **June 1** to **November 30** each year. This information will help you prepare for safety during and after a storm.

1. Please call on the Lord to keep us all safe.
2. Listen attentively to your area's news and weather channels and obey all warnings about hurricanes and other natural disasters approaching Florida.
3. Download the **FEMA app** on your device.



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4. Help your family and neighbors to prepare for the worst. We encourage you to follow these recommendations for preparation:
 - a. Secure your home.
 - b. Have a hurricane kit.
 - c. Fill your gas tank and have cash on hand.
 - d. Update your homeowner's insurance or obtain one if you don't already have it.
 - e. Have an escape plan should your community have an evacuation order.

Secure your home

- Clear brush and mobile objects from around the house.
- Cover all of your windows, either with hurricane shutters or wood.
- Although tape can prevent glass from shattering everywhere, be warned that tape does not prevent the window from breaking.
- If possible, secure straps or clips to securely fasten your roof to the structure of your home.
- Make sure all trees and shrubs are trimmed and clear rain gutters.
- Reinforce your garage doors.
- Bring in all outdoor furniture, garbage cans, decorations, and anything not tied down.
- If winds become strong, stay away from windows and doors and close, secure, and brace internal doors.

Hurricane Kit

Avoid the last-minute widespread panic that leaves stores empty. These items will help you weather the storm at home and are also useful to take with you in case of emergency evacuation:

- Non-perishable food and water for your family and pets (two-week supply)
- First-aid kit (include any prescription medication you may need)
- Personal hygiene items and sanitation items, including diapers for babies
- Flashlights, batteries, phone charges.
- Battery-operated radio (have extra batteries)
- Non-electronic cooking utensils such as coal, manual can openers, and camping stoves
- Lighter or matches
- Books, magazines, games for recreation
- Cooler and ice packs
- Blankets, a whistle, face masks, and appropriate clothing and footwear
- Secure your medications and important documents such as personal IDs, birth & marriage certificates, credit cards, house and other property titles, and passports in a waterproof container.

Obey all the instructions of the governor's office. Obtain the app for emergency alerts based on your county/city here: <https://apps.floridadisaster.org/alertflorida/>



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Important terms you may hear:

- **Tropical Storm Watch:** Tropical storm conditions are possible in the area.
- **Hurricane Watch:** Hurricane conditions are possible in the area. Watches are issued 48 hours before the anticipated onset of tropical storm-force winds.
- **Tropical Storm Warning:** Tropical storm conditions are expected in the area.
- **Hurricane Warning:** Hurricane conditions are expected in the area. Warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of tropical storm-force winds.
- **Eye:** Clear, sometimes well-defined center of the storm with calmer conditions.
- **Eye Wall:** Surrounding the eye, contains some of the most severe weather of the storm with the highest wind speed and most considerable precipitation.
- **Rain Bands:** Bands coming off the cyclone that produce severe weather conditions such as heavy rain, wind, and tornadoes.
- **Storm Surge:** The often underestimated and deadly result of ocean water swelling due to a landfalling storm quickly flooding coastal and sometimes areas further inland.

Power Outages

If a storm should leave you without power, a few things to consider will help you be ready and stay safe outside of your everyday hurricane preparedness.

- **Gas:** Make sure your tank is full before an approaching storm. Most people wait until the last minute and rush to get extra gas for cars and generators, and subsequently, gas stations can run out early.
- **ATMS:** Have extra cash on hand in case the ATMs in your area are not accessible or working.
- **Cell Phones:** Charge your cell phone and limit use after power is out.
- **A/C:** This can be the most uncomfortable side effect of losing power during a storm. Cover up your windows to prevent as much light from entering and warm the house as possible. If you have backup or battery-operated fans, don't run them unless you are in the room. Fans create a difference in perceived temperature but do not cool the room; instead, they create a cooling effect by dispersing the heat of your skin. It is said they can add heat to a room just by running.
- **Water:** Fill the bathtub and large containers with only water for washing and flushing.
- **Food:** Turn your fridge temperature down and/or freeze any food or drinking water that can be frozen if you expect a power outage. Here is a guide on freezing food: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/food-safety/safe-food-handling-and-preparation/food-safety-basics/freezing-and-food-safety>. Have a cooler with ice packs prepared to cool your drinks and snacks after power has been out for over four hours. Check out this food safety guide for when to discard your perishable food:



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- **Health/Safety:** The CDC has a great guide on how to stay safe in the event of a power outage: <https://poweroutage.us/area/state/florida>



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Church AV Preparations

AV Recovery plan 30 days before Hurricane Season

1. Begin routine preparedness thirty days before hurricane season.
2. Ensure all valuable devices are on a UPS backup surge protector.
3. When possible, unplug every computer or device from the wall, even if it is off.
4. Know who to call when the power is out.
5. Know where to look to see the issue when the power is out.
6. Do not have events or be on the property doing a thunderstorm.
7. Be aware of storm alerts; they usually come at the same time in the afternoon.
8. Know who to call if the internet is down.
9. If you cannot get an immediate tech, keep calling to see if you can get a canceled appointment.
10. Have a second internet provider to switch over if one is knocked out.
11. Know who to contact if you are on church property and significant events take place such as fire, outage, or injury.

Community Preparedness

Your faith-based entities (churches) are here for you. Please visit your local Seventh-day Adventist church if you need emotional support or have questions about what comes next. Some churches have food pantries and second-hand clothing distribution or can connect you with agencies that may assist your needs. But most of all, they can pray for you, guiding you in communicating with God, the Creator and loving Father who can anchor you during any storm and let the sunshine in your life once again.

Phone numbers and emails can be found on the websites listed below.



Florida Conference

<https://floridaconference.com/community-services-disaster-relief/>



Southeastern Conferences

<https://www.secsda.org/community-services/>



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